



Cute But Risky

Multistate Outbreak of Salmonella Altona and Johannesburg Infections Linked to Chicks and Ducklings From a Mail-Order Hatchery — United States, February—October 2011

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This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Chicks and ducklings are cute, but they can spread *Salmonella* to people, especially young children, those with weakened immune systems, and the elderly. Most *Salmonella* germs are transmitted by contaminated food, but they *can* be spread through contact with animals and their environments. Chicks and ducklings can carry *Salmonella* and not appear sick, but still spread the germs to people. Reduce the risk of infection from these birds by always washing hands after touching them or anything in their environment. Children under five should not handle chicks and ducklings. Keep these birds outside and away from food and drink.

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